

THE EVENING STAR.

WASHINGTON.
WEDNESDAY, September 27, 1893.

CROSBY & NOYES, Editors.

THE EVENING STAR has a regular and permanent circulation in Washington more than three times larger than that of any other paper. As a News and Advertising Medium it has no competitor.

Letters to THE STAR should be addressed, or to the Editor, or to the Business Department, according to their character or purpose, not to any individual connected with the office.

The customary defense of the intervention of Judge Lynch is the law's delay, uncertainty, inefficiency. The most recent cases of lynching or attempted lynching have not, however, had this defense, since the negroes concerned, who had committed capital offenses, would have had small chance of escaping death at the hands of the law, even if they had escaped the lynchers. And in the most recent cases it does not appear that the offense was of that character, committed against a woman, which inspires every individual with the savage, avenging impulse, and the fierce desire to make of the offender a quick and terrible example. The fact that when once the habit is formed of taking the law into one's own hands there will be no discrimination between justifiable and unjustifiable lynchings is a fact emphasized by recent experience, and more especially by the case where the mob tortured to death guiltless brothers of a negro murderer in the effort to extort a confession of the whereabouts of the criminal. The most recent lynchings are not, however, confined to the south, and it is unwise for any defender of it to base his argument upon that assumption. The tendency of the individual to disregard under stress of passion the limitations placed upon him by the organization—society or the state—of which he is a member, and to demand individually an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, no longer, however, recognizing the existence of cities of refuge, crops well as the west and north and south, well as the south. The only shape which retributive justice could take among Indians, in new mining camps and other unorganized aggregations of humanity appears, untimely, in organized and civilized communities.

If there are not enough courts, and the law's delay works suffering and injustice, increase the number of courts. If certain features of the jury system breed injustice, eliminate or modify those features. If the law is at times ineffective, strive to make it effective; do not strike it down. Do not resolve state and society into their original elements of disorganized groups of warring individuals, anarchical as to government, lacking laws, and without any might makes right. Do not declare modern civilization a failure without giving it a chance to defend, and, if may be, reform itself. Do not surrender it without further trial to the mob to be lynched.

It is the opinion of engineers that the speed of the fastest railroad trains in this country and Europe has reached about the highest limit of safety under the present conditions. The difficulty lies in the curves of the rails. If some motive power were applied capable of producing double the speed obtained from the steam locomotive it could not be used on existing railroads without the constant danger of hurling trains off the track at a tangent whenever a curve was struck. In England experiments are being made with what is known as the single rail system, which, it is believed, will solve the problem of speed. In this system the cars sit astride of a single rail, raised to the height of four feet from the ground, while on either side, near the ground, are guide rails on which a set of small wheels run. It is claimed that with this system it is almost impossible to throw a train from the rails, and the public will be able to enjoy the advantage of the high rates of speed, 100 or 150 miles an hour, promised by experiments with electric motors. The system, it is said, can be applied to the present roads, and much of the work of original construction can be saved. The cost of straightening American roads would be so great, it is asserted, that the only feasible way to provide for high speed is to change the character of the rails.

There is an evident disposition on the part of many hypercritical beings to condemn President Cleveland for his decision against public receptions. The condemnation is based most flimsily if indeed it has any foundation at all. Having its origin in the good nature of a President who held the supreme office when the country's population was but a fraction of its present magnitude the custom has grown until the thoughtless public have come to regard it as an unbreakable right. When President Cleveland first occupied the Executive Mansion he outdid his predecessors by receiving the general public three days in each week. It was a gracious and pleasant thing to do and it was highly appreciated by hundreds of thousands, not only of citizens, but also of foreign tourists. President Harrison was equally kind, for he continued the practice throughout his entire term, although often at great inconvenience. The handshaking process was a wearisome affair at best for the one man who had to present a more or less smiling smile with every squeeze, and if President Cleveland finds its monotony insufferable he is not obliged to abide by precedent. The humble citizen reserves to himself the right of refusal to shake hands; surely the nation's chief magistrate may decline if he so desires.

The Midway Pleasure is now adding to its novelties by the combination of the oriental costume with the American ready-made coat.

All roads may lead to Rome, but sometimes the toll is rather excessive.

Some of the many thousands of men and women who were disappointed in their endeavors to secure homesteads in the now overgrown Cherokee Strip may be interested in the information which makes plain the existence of great tracts of valuable land that wait the coming of the agriculturally inclined. These tracts are not, it is true, in the United States, but they are nevertheless of great fertility and will sooner or later come into the possession of the ever-satiable white man. They are in Africa, and Dr. Carl Peters, the young but eminent German explorer, is fully convinced that they will not long remain idle. In a contribution to the Forum Dr. Peters says that the average American's opinion—due partly, no doubt, to the well-known stories of some returned negro pilgrims from Liberia—is that Africa is a sort of immense Dismal Swamp, varied with immense stretches of sandy desert or impenetrable forests. Of course there are portions of the Dark Continent that will never be very heavily populated save by natives, but there is much land now available, and in years to come there will be very much more. Health conditions are everywhere improving, as the experience of colonial doctors and plans for ameliorating climatic influences. Dr. Peters calls attention to the fact that in the time of Tacitus Germany was considered one of the most dreaded and dangerous of fever countries, and everybody knows that today Germany is a densely populated and very healthy country. The rapid-widening ingenuity of today will accomplish similar results in the unhealthy portions of Africa in very much less time. But all of Africa is not very unhealthy, and Dr. Peters insists

that the most mountainous countries, "such as the Kilimandjaro, Kilimanjaro, Uganda, Usambara, Karagwe, the Upper Congo and the mountainous districts around the Nyassa, will prove excellent fields for white settlement, for they possess all the necessary conditions—healthy air, plenty of water and fertile soil." But the rush for Kilimandjaro should not set in just yet, for the doctor admits that the districts he named are "like oases in the steppes and must first be connected with the coast by railway before we may dare to take settlers to them." In some portions of the continent the native races will surely disappear before the advance of the white race, just as so many of the Indian tribes were removed by the gradual elimination of the frontier in this country, but a vast majority of native Africans are agriculturists and cattle raisers, and may, the doctor thinks, be extremely useful to those whose ultimate intention it is to possess the land that has always belonged to the Ethiopian. Concluding a very interesting prophetic review Dr. Peters says that the magic process which will open the dark continent to civilization is the organization of native labor by white intelligence. He is satisfied that when the negro learns to create new values by his own labor, he will in turn get into the condition to increase his desires and to satisfy them by buying from foreign countries, and by this process will the commercial importance of the continent surely grow. There are great mineral ranges in many parts of the country—it is the land of Ophir—but they have been comparatively untouched by the prospector for thousands of years. Coffee, tea, cocoa, tobacco, cotton, vanilla and many other staple products reach their highest stage of development in the regions named by the doctor, and these seem to be no good reason why among the pioneers who shall achieve wealth in the land about which so little is now known there should not be a fair sprinkling of energetic Americans. The difficulties to be encountered are no greater than those accounted for by thousands in this country who are old. The people who hunger and thirst after new territory may find it in the heart of Africa.

Somewhat improbable, and yet having on its surface the thumbmarks of possibility, is the story that the life of the world's Columbian exposition will be extended into November. The story goes that several of the railroads running into Chicago will reduce their rates materially during the first two weeks of November, and thus bring about a tremendous rush of traffic, which, it is expected, will result in actual profits for those who hold stock in the fair. Too late the railroads are awakening to a situation apparent to others long ago. A ten-dollar round trip rate from Washington, Baltimore and Philadelphia, with sleeping car privileges, would have resulted in much more of a surplus than will come from the methods that have been employed. It is not too late, even yet, to catch on to the tail end of the procession.

Senator Cameron has contributed his note to the confusion which exists with reference to political classification. It is growing more and more difficult to judge of a man's attitude on public questions by the political affiliations that he claims.

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SHOOTING STARS.

Consolation.

"Ere long," he murmured with a sigh, "Some comfort I can find; Though I must waive official pie, There's still the pumpkin kind."

"Now," said a writer to a paragraph, "be a good little joke, and when you are old enough you shall have the honor of being ascribed by the magazines to one or another of the world's most celebrated people."

Sympathetic.

"How long have these men been here, talking in this way?" said the pretty girl in the Senate gallery.

"Ever since August," replied her escort.

"And how much longer are they going to stay?"

"As long as they can."

"Poor things! I suppose they haven't any homes to go to."

An Autumn Invocation.

Come forth, oh blithe autumnal jest And bring us sweet relief from care; Awake our smiles with naughty jest By talk of trees where limbs are bare.

All Gone.

The nights are cold, The skies are gray, The frost king now Is on his way.

We miss the birds; We miss the bees; We miss the flowers And leafy trees.

We also miss, 'Tis joy to state, The spoons who sag The old front gate.

A Problem.

"John," said his wife, "what are you doing?"

"Figuring," he replied.

"Figuring on what?"

"On which we can better afford to do; buy coal or use the parlor furniture for fuel."

Worth It.

Some slight sense of regret and reminders of debt Give his face an expression of care; But his sorrow all sinks and he smiles when he thinks Of the great time he had at the fair.

Onlookers at the Sport.

From the Chicago Evening Post.

The members of the United States Senate appear to be trying to talk each other to death. If appearances are not deceptive in this case the country will be patient.

In Darkest Africa.

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AT 12th St. and Pa. Ave.

Our patrons are invited to a last visit, as the store will not reopen after tomorrow evening.

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We are making plans for large sales of BOYS' CLOTHING. You'll find our Boys' Clothing beyond question the best-fitting, best made, best wearing in the city. And our prices will prove our anxiety to please you.

We want to see all the boys and their mothers tomorrow, for we feel sure that a trip through our well-lighted Juvenile Clothing Department will prove most interesting.

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Ladies' \$1 Cotton and Cambric Gowns for... 60c
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65c Cotton and Cambric Chemise and Drawers for... 45c
70c Cambric Corset Covers for... 15c
\$1.25 Black Satin Skirts for... 95c
75c All-Wool Knit Skirts for... 35c
95c French Enamel Hair Pins for... 10c
15c Roman Pearl Beads for... 25c
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25c Silver-Plated Match Boxes for... 15c
25c and 25c Fancy Soaps for... 10c
5c Packages Mott Balls for... 15c
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15c Silk Japanese Fans for... 45c
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15c Children's Fast Black Hose for... 15c
25c Ladies' Ribbed Vests for... 15c
35c Fast Black Hose for... 25c
15c Extra Size Towels for... 10c
5c Twilled Toweling for... 35c
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75c Extra Wide Storm Serge for... 45c
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\$2.50 Children's Silk Hats for... 45c
25c Initial Purses for... 15c

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25c Chemisettes for... 5c
\$1.50 Ladies' Kid Gloves for... 45c
\$1.95 Waerproof Raglans for... \$1
\$1.50 Gloria Silk Umbrellas for... \$1
10c Chatelaine Bags for... 25c
\$1.50 Feather Fans for... 95c
\$2.95 Spangle Silk Gauze Fans for... \$1.50
\$1.50 Striped Feather Fans for... 65c
15c Bordered Tissue Veiling for... 5c
25